



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1330.0 - Education News, February 2014

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 19/02/2014

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A word from the editor

Welcome to the Term 1 edition of Ed News!

The theme for this edition is **Multiculturalism**.

The 2014 CensusAtSchool Questionnaire is now open! Last year we had a fantastic response to the Questionnaire, with 23,745 students inputting their data. This outstanding result would not have been possible without your support, so I would like to thank all teachers who encouraged their students to participate. I would also like to encourage you to get your students involved once more and sign up for CensusAtSchool in 2014. For more information about CensusAtSchool, please read on in the '**CensusAtSchool News**' section.

Speaking of CensusAtSchool, one of my favourite questions in the Questionnaire asks students what languages they speak at home. The rich diversity of the Australian community is reflected in this exciting data. The 2013 data is online and ready for you to explore. Some of the top languages spoken by students might surprise you! Read our article, '**CensusAtSchool: Languages Spoken by Students**', to learn more about this fascinating data.

Continuing with our theme I have chosen to feature **MAT 04 Country of Birth**. In this lesson students use ABS data to investigate the main countries of birth of the population of Australia. Find out more in '**An Idea for the Classroom**'.

The Education Services team had a very busy end to 2013, attending and presenting at conferences in both Western Australia and Victoria. To find out about the conferences we attended, refer to the '**Conferences**' section.

And as if that wasn't enough to keep us busy, we also launched our new Education Services and CensusAtSchool web pages in late November. There are plenty of new exciting features for you to discover, so please be sure to read the '**Resources for Teachers**' section for more details.

For additional ABS data, statistics and resources, check out our '**Interesting Publications**' section. These publications offer a gateway into a range of recently published ABS products that I have found particularly interesting this month.

Finally, as I'm sure you've noticed, Education News has welcomed 2014 with a new 'e-mag' look. I would love to hear your thoughts about the new style, or any suggestions you may have about articles or activities, so please feel free to contact Education Services on 1800 623 273.

Emma Salik

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CensusAtSchool News

The 2014 CensusAtSchool Questionnaire is now open! The questionnaire opened on 17 February and will close on 1 August.

Last year 23,745 students input their data. We encourage teachers to get their students to participate in the 2014 Questionnaire so that they too can be a part of this national community. By adding their data, students are contributing to an exceptional and unique databank which is accessible to students and teachers for free.

What is CensusAtSchool? CensusAtSchool is a nation-wide project that runs annually. The questionnaire is open in terms 1 and 2 every year. Students complete an online questionnaire of 31 questions such as their height, what they had for breakfast and their opinions on environmental and social issues. The questionnaire is designed to collect different types of data such as categorical and numerical. The data is collected in a confidential manner to ensure individual students cannot be identified. For more information you can visit the **CensusAtSchool - Australia** website.

How can I get involved? Completing the questionnaire is quick and easy. Just follow these three steps:

1. Create a teacher account
2. Access your teacher account to generate student access numbers (SAN)
3. Get your students to complete the Questionnaire. This usually takes around 20 minutes.

What next? Once the questionnaire closes, the data for 2014 will be available through the **Random Sampler**. The data is **free** to access and your students do not have to complete the questionnaire to access the data. Data for 2006 to 2013 is available for you to explore right now through the Random Sampler.

In case you needed another reason to participate... Completing the questionnaire, and then accessing the data, is an exciting way to teach students about statistics and how a survey is conducted. The data is relevant to students and can be used in a number of ways. Students can even access and compare data from the other countries involved in CensusAtSchool around the world! There are nine countries with rich data just waiting to be explored on the International Random Data Selector.

Participating in the CensusAtSchool questionnaire is also an easy way to satisfy some of the General Capabilities outlined in the Australian Curriculum. Education Services provides a library of lessons on our website that teachers can access and use for **free**.

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CensusAtSchool: Languages Spoken by Students

Did you know, in 2013, 11.8 per cent of the 23,745 students who completed the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire were born overseas? Did you also know that Arabic is the most common language spoken by Australian students after English? These interesting statistics, and more, can be found in the rich data collected by the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire.

Australia is a country rich in multiculturalism and this is reflected in the data collected by the questionnaire. This data is particularly relevant as, in any given classroom, there are bound to be students who can speak a language other than English. This presents an exciting opportunity for students to explore the cultures of their peers.

Here are some fast facts:

- Besides English (87.3 per cent), the top languages spoken by students were Arabic (1.4 percent), Mandarin (1.3 percent) and Cantonese (1.1 percent).
- Since 2008 there has been an increase in the number of languages spoken by students. In 2008, 20.6 per cent of females and 19.6 per cent of male students could speak two languages. In 2013 this number increased to 26.8 per cent of female students and 22.8 per cent of male students being able to speak two languages.
- In 2013, 6.7 per cent of female students could speak three languages compared to 4.3 per cent in 2008.

How can I find this data? This data can be found using either the Random Sampler or the National Time Series Tables. These resources can be found on the CensusAtSchool home page.

Idea for the classroom: Is your class a typical Australian class?

Since 2008, CensusAtSchool data indicates the number of children speaking only one language has declined, while the number of children speaking two or more languages has increased.

1. Make a prediction: will the number of languages spoken by members in your class be similar to a random sample, or the Australian population? What percentage of students do you expect in your class to speak one language. What percentage of students in your class do you expect will speak more than one language?

2. Conduct a survey: conduct a survey of your class asking the question 'In how many languages can you hold an everyday conversation?' Record your results in a frequency table with a separate column for girls and boys. For an example see the frequency table of the CensusAtSchool National Time Series Table 5: Number of spoken languages by sex (%). Compare your prediction to your results from your class survey. Was your prediction correct? Why/Why not?

3. Take a Random Sample: use the CensusAtSchool Random Sampler to get data of number of languages. Make sure you get a random sample of the same number of students as your survey. Record your results in a frequency table with a separate column for girls and boys.

4. Compare samples: Compare your class survey results with the results from the random sampler. Are

they similar? Why/why not?

5. Compare your samples to the population: compare your results from your class survey and the results from the random sampler to the CensusAtSchool population using CensusAtSchool National Time Series Table 5: Number of spoken languages by sex (%). Compare your survey results, and the random sample results, with the National Time Series table. Describe any differences and similarities between your two samples compared to the National Time Series table.

6. What would happen next? If you took more random samples, do you think you would get different or similar results to what you already have? Explain why.

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An Idea for the Classroom: MAT 04 Country of Birth

Where do Australians come from? This is the question we want your students to investigate in **MAT 04 Country of Birth**.

In this activity, students are asked to investigate ABS data on main countries of birth of the population. Students will create a bar graph and identify patterns in the data. From this lesson students will develop an understanding of how to use a bar graph to display discrete bivariate data and also how to read and interpret data presented in tables and graphs. This lesson is best suited to students in years 6 and 7 and aligns with Australian Curriculum codes: ACMSP169, ACMSP170, ACMNA158 and ACHHK116.

Do you have a classroom idea that uses ABS data or ABS Education products? Let us know at education@abs.gov.au and we can share it with schools around Australia.

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Resources for Teachers: NEW Web Pages

NEW web pages! In November 2013, the team launched new Education Services and CensusAtSchool web pages. We are delighted with the result and also with the feedback we have already received from teachers. If you have any feedback, please feel free to contact us.

Some of our exciting new features include:

All of our resources are one click away! The process of creating our new look home pages to streamline teacher's access to classroom resources. We know you don't have a lot of time to spare, so we want to make it a lot easier for you to discover our treasure trove of resources. There are now buttons on our home pages that will transport you exactly where you want to go - from the Questionnaire, to resources devoted to your desired year level.

Resources, resources, resources! Teachers can now access resources by year level in one click - simply access the home page and click on your selected year level button. For each year level you will find resources, ranging from games to assessment tasks, coded to the Australian Curriculum. Resources are also grouping according to subject area; English, Geography, History, Mathematics and Science. We have also provided an estimate of the time students will need for the activity, and what materials are required.

Quick links to CensusAtSchool! Teachers can now access the questionnaire, create a teacher account, login to their account, and access the Random Sampler by clicking a button on the home page.

Here's a peek at our new look home pages!

The screenshot shows the 'Bringing Data to Life in the Classroom' section of the website. It features a purple header with the title and a sub-section about the importance of using statistical data. Below the header are buttons for 'Create Teacher Account', 'Random Sampler', and 'Education News'. A navigation bar for 'Resources by Year Level' includes buttons for F-Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, and Year 10/A. The main content area is divided into several colored boxes: a blue box for 'About Education Services' with links to 'About Education Services' and 'Contact Us & Feedback'; a green box for 'Teacher Statistical Literacy' with links to 'Steps in Running A Survey', 'Statistical Literacy', 'Concepts and Definitions', 'ABS Video Tutorials', and 'Education News'; a purple box for 'AC Support' with links to 'What Graph or Display to Use When', 'Excel Skills for What Graph or Display to Use When', 'Australian Curriculum Maths (ACM) Glossary PDF', and 'Statistical Investigation Process Poster'; a pink box for 'Explore Data & Stats' with links to 'Economy Datasets', 'Society and Community Datasets', 'Population Datasets', 'Environment and Energy Datasets', 'Archived Datasets', 'Spotlight on Census', and 'Census 2011 Fact Sheets'; a light green box for 'Resources' with links to 'Games and Apps', 'Maths and Stats by Email Newsletter - CSIRO', 'Parallel Box and Whisker Plot Tool', 'Request Teacher Pack', 'Stats Quest: Student Work', 'Teacher Submitted Activities', and 'For Librarians'; and an orange box for 'ABS Publications' with links to 'Australian Social Trends', 'Buy ABS publications and products', 'Census', 'Measures of Australia's Progress', 'Statistical Language', and 'Year Book Australia'. A small note at the bottom left states: 'This link takes you to an external website.'



Australia's premier database of statistical information about students.

CensusAtSchool is a nation-wide annual project that collects real data relevant to students. It provides a snapshot of the characteristics, attitudes and opinions of those students who have completed questionnaires. [Find out more](#) about CensusAtSchool.

Attention WA Teacher Account holders: Email addresses containing 'detwa' have now been updated to 'education.wa'. Teachers affected by this change will now be able to access their teacher account using their 'education.wa' email address.

[Teacher Account Login](#)

[Register Teacher Account](#)

[Random Sampler](#)

Resources by Year Level

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

[Year 10/A](#)

[About C@S - Australia](#)

- [About CensusAtSchool](#)
- [Documents for Schools](#)
- [Contact Us & Feedback](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

- [2013 Questionnaire Now Closed](#)
- [Login to Teacher Account](#)
- [Register New Teacher Account](#)
- [Past Questionnaires](#)

[C@S International](#)

- [International homepage*](#)
- [CensusAtSchool International](#)
- [NZ Data Detective Poster*](#)
- [International Random Data Selector*](#)
- [International Data Tool*](#)
- [Stats2013AtSchool homepage*](#)
- [Stats2013AtSchool quiz*](#)

[Explore Data & Stats](#)

- [Random Sampler](#)
- [Prepared Samples](#)
- [Data for Calculators](#)
- [National Summary Tables](#)
- [National Time Series Tables](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Interesting Statistics](#)

[Resources](#)

- [Teacher Submitted Activities](#)
- [Request Teacher Pack](#)
- [ABS Video Tutorials](#)
- [Stats Quest Student Work](#)

[Key Dates](#)

- [17 February - 1 August 2014: 2014 questionnaire open](#)

*This link takes you to an external website.

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Conferences

The end of the year is always a busy time for Education Services with conferences.

MAWA



Frances, Mary-Anne and Emma travelled west to attend the annual Mathematic Association of Western Australia (MAWA) Secondary conference in Fremantle, Perth. We always love going to MAWA and this year was no exception.

Frances and Mary-Anne each presented two sessions. Frances' presentation introduced CensusAtSchool to teachers and took them on a website tour, demonstrating how to access authentic CensusAtSchool data, and also our large library of free resources. Mary-Anne's presentation titled 'A century of statistics for your classroom' took teachers on a journey, showing them how data can tell a story. Using her grandfather as an example, Mary-Anne demonstrated how ABS data intertwines with the lives of ordinary Australians.

Three of our four sessions were sold out, and we received fantastic feedback from teachers. Our trade stall was also very popular and teachers loved all of our promotional materials. We even scored a mention on the MAWA Facebook page!

MAV



ESU returned to Melbourne ready for our next conference - the annual Mathematics Association of Victoria (MAV) conference at La Trobe University. This time the team were also joined by Vivienne and Nadeem.

Frances, Mary-Anne and Vivienne each presented two sessions.

Frances' presentation titled 'Harnessing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data - ABS products supporting statistical learning' provided suggested entry points for teachers to explore and harness ABS data.

Mary-Anne presented a hands-on half day session for teachers new to Excel, titled 'Using Excel to create

statistical displays.' The session was aimed at teachers with beginner knowledge of Excel, and during the course of the presentation Mary-Anne demonstrated how to create a variety of graphs using authentic CensusAtSchool questionnaire data.

Vivienne's presentation, 'ABS Products Supporting Deeper Statistical Understanding: Entry Points to the Australian Curriculum,' profiled ABS resources that can be used to teach statistics in the classroom.

The trade stall was very busy, with some 2000 teachers working their way around the stalls over the two days of the conference.

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Interesting Publications

It's a new year, and the ABS has an entire website of exciting statistics for you to explore. To give you a taste of what the ABS has to offer, the publications below are some that I have found particularly interesting this month.

Migration, Australia, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (cat.no. 3412.0)

This migration publication contains rich data on Australia's population by country of birth, net overseas migration and net interstate migration. This publication has a large number of data cubes available to download.

Schools, Australia, February 2014 (cat. no. 4221.0)

The Schools publication is published annually, and contains data about schools and students. The main article is a commentary on student numbers. Data is drawn from the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC) which is managed by the ABS.

Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2012-13 (cat. no. 4530.0)

This publication has just been released. The crime victimisation publication looks at personal and household crime, as well as crime victimisation by state.

Household Energy Consumption Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2012 (cat. no. 4670.0)

This publication contains really interesting statistics on household energy consumption in Australia. A feature of the publication that I found especially interesting was the comparison of dwelling energy, fuel consumption, and total energy expenditure by State and Territory. This publication covers topics including economic resources, dwelling characteristics, family composition of households and climates affects on household energy use.

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Subscribe

Education News is a totally free resource that aims to assist teachers' use of ABS data in their classroom. When you **subscribe** you will be notified of each new edition as it is published.

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Education News keeps teachers and students up to date with ABS resources and data that is relevant to the school sector.

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